lakhs, the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% of the balance cost of the project. For weaker sections, tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for balance amount (upto Rs.25 lakhs). It is 10%. The beneficiary is required to invest his own contribution of 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ ST and other weaker sections, beneficiary's a contribution is 5% of the project cost.

(b) the details of the production and employment under rural industries in Assam during last 3 years are as under:—

tear	Production (value in lakhs)	Employment (No. in lakhs)
1999-00	4047-85	0.98
2000-01	4671.91	1.01
2001-02	5036.68	1.04

(c) The details of funds sanctioned/released and utilized under the REGP in the past three years in the States are as under:—

Year	Total (in lakhs)
1999-00	15.78
2000-01	27.94
2001-02	143.00

Khadi and Gramodyog Commission

†923. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any plan to expand branches of the Khadi Gramodyog throughout the country through the Khadi and Gramodyog Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) what effectives steps have so far been taken by Government to establish small industries related to Khadi in the country, particularly in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Under the Khadi Package, the Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is promoting establishment and renovation of institutional sales outlets across the country. Unviable Departmental outlets (Khadi Gramodyog, which are incurring continuous losses are in the process of being closed down.

(d) To strengthen and encorage establishment of small industries related to Khadi in the country, a package was announced by the Government on 14.5.2001, which *inter-alia* consists of Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and Market Development assistance (MDA), Insurance cover in Khadi artisans, amphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development etc.

Rural industries in H.P.

924. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what initiative Government have taken to provide more employment opportunities in rural/Snow bound/Backward areas in Himachal Pradesh to promote Rural Industries in the State;

(b) the steps taken to improve village Industries in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise; and

(c) what assistance has been extended to the State under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country including Rural/Snow bound/Backward areas of Himachal Pradesh,. Under this schemes, 25% of the project